



Dealer News

March 2006

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Published by:
CPT Rob Fortune

FROM THE COMMANDER...

Dealer Families and Friends,

As always seems to be the case, the time since our last update has been one of much activity. One important part of strengthening support for our mission lies in ensuring that our story is told. It is essential that we share our accomplishments and our successes, both to increase understanding of what we are doing and to validate our efforts and those of the families that we have left behind. We do this in many ways, from our updates to family and friends through Family Readiness Group (FRG) channels to meeting with reporters and command representatives who visit Iskandariyah to learn about the Dealer Area of Operations (AO).

We have been fortunate in recent weeks to have been featured on NBC News affiliates and in pictures on Army Times.com. These stories and pictures offer a glimpse of life in Iskandariyah and boost the morale of the soldiers working hard to be successful in their mission here. The Army Times reporter and cameraman enjoyed their stay with the Dealers so much that they spent eight days with

us instead of executing the rest of their scheduled itinerary. As CSM Barnett mentions in his update, we are hoping to see some good articles in Army Times in the coming weeks.

In addition to the visits with reporters, the battalion had all three of the Division's General Officers and the Forces Command, Corps and Division Command Sergeants Major visit us over the past week. MG Thurman came down to receive an update on Dealer Operations and to tour the FOB to see how far the improvements have come. BG Maffey, the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, flew into Carnivore Island and traveled to the Jurf Patrol Base. He was impressed by the amount of work that had been done to improve the positions by Archangel, Carnivore, and Eliminator, whose bulldozer was on Carnivore Island building defensive positions and improving the road while he was there. BG Halverson, the Assistant Division Commander for Support, flew in just as the CG was lifting off the helipad. We briefed him on Civil Affairs and the Projects that the Dealers are pursuing to improve the lives of the Iraqi people. Then CPT Perry and CSM Barnett walked him through the FOB to illustrate the requirements that remain

for completing upgrades to the FOB and also to showcase the Herculean efforts that have gained us the improvements thus far. All of these visits, from reporters to command representatives provide us an opportunity to tell our story and demonstrate the dedication and fortitude of our soldiers.

In my last update I focused on the work of the line companies A-E. Central to the accomplishments of the battalion are the efforts of the other two companies that provide the basis for the successes of the tank, infantry and engineer companies. Fury and Hellcat are our two largest companies who provide all the assets that allow the battalion to conduct operations around the clock throughout the Dealer AO. Every time a tank rolls out, it has just been fueled and fixed by soldiers from Fury and has checked in on the radio with Hellcat's Tactical Operations Center crew.

The weather is turning hot, it feels as if a switch has been thrown turning the sun on during the height of the day. We have had our first 90 degree days and the sun's rays are seemingly more powerful each day. The bugs are also increasing as fly and gnat season begin.

We assumed full responsibility for our AO on the 30th of December. It is now the 30th of March. We have accomplished many things since then and we have suffered some as well. We all remember in our hearts our fallen comrade, CPL Aaron Forbes, who was killed on the 28th of December, and we think often of our wounded and injured

who have been returned to the United States. LT Urie and SGT Earlenbaugh, wounded in the IED explosion that took CPL Forbes' life, are both progressing in their recuperation back at Fort Hood and were recently honored at the monthly Purple Heart and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. LT Schaeffer, wounded by an IED in recent weeks, is doing well and is recovering at Fort Hood. SPC Kitner, wounded in the back of a Bradley, is being treated at Walter Reed in Washington DC. PFC Bottom of Fury, injured in a vehicle rollover, is being treated for multiple broken bones and has just returned to the US.

Finally I would like to acknowledge all of the efforts by the families and FRGs back in the rear. I know you have been hard at work preparing boxes for soldiers, coordinating pot lucks, and supporting each other in times of need. Turn-out for the Battalion FRG meeting was tremendous. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the Battalion Movie Day that has been set up for April 8th on Fort Hood. You have certainly earned a day of fun. We are very thankful for everything you are doing there to enable us to continue our mission here.

Please keep the Dealers at the forefront of your thoughts and prayers as each day they execute a complex and difficult mission with cheer and enthusiasm. What a tremendous group of young men and women we have here representing our country in this great endeavor. Be proud of what they do in your name.

LTC Pat Donahoe
Dealer 6

Dealers...Deeds...Mesopotamia
...the 67th!!

Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR...

Hello everyone, this is Dealer Seven, "Greetings from Dealer Land". The Dealers have completed their first quarter of the deployment. Needless to say, it has been an exceptionally busy one. We have been engaged in what I perceive to be a war on two fronts. On one hand we have been engaged in a campaign to prosecute the commander's intent outside of the FOB to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people and on the other hand to improve the quality of life inside of the FOB. Dealer Six has provided a detailed account of what the Dealers have accomplished operationally outside of the wire improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people. I think this is an appropriate time to address the major improvements that have been made inside the wire on the FOB to improve the quality of life for the Dealers.

As such, I see this as a time of reflection. To get a full appreciation of the hard work and effort that our soldiers have put in to improve the quality of life here at the FOB, one has to visualize the conditions that existed upon our arrival. Miss Gena Cavallaro from the Army

Times captures that visualization in her article appropriately titled, "Life on the Frontier." You can find that article at the following web link

<http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1630416.php>

I might add that the title of the article was coined here at FOB Iskan. The soldiers acknowledge that they have less comfort items here at our FOB than at most other FOB's. Nevertheless that has affected neither their performance nor their morale. The soldiers embrace the concept of living tough on the frontier and take pride in the hardship that they endure and wear it as a badge of pride. They don't want to appear "soft".

There has been so much improvement; I don't quite know where to begin. CPT Perry accompanied by 1SG Hendricks have spearheaded the campaign for FOB improvements. They have assumed their additional responsibilities as: Mayor and Asst. Mayor and blossomed in their new roles. They have supervised the construction of new tents and developed a campaign plan that addresses the future improvements of the FOB. Carnivore has constructed a new Command post. Bush has totally renovated their Command Post and refurbished their indoor showers. Archangel has constructed a new patrol base in addition to remodeling their command post. Dog inherited the only containerized living

quarters on the FOB, but that does not minimize the hard work that they have put in to cleaning up their compound. Fury has contributed significantly to the efforts of the battalion: both on and off of the FOB. We cannot accomplish any mission without them. I would be somewhat remiss if I didn't mention the contributions of 1SG Wesley and SGM Hale. In additions to their primary duties, these individuals wake up in the morning with one thing on their minds: FOB Improvement.

First, I think most of you have heard of the fantastic gift that we received on Christmas day. This was the day that our new Dining facility arrived on the FOB. Two week later, it opened for business to the delight of all Dealers. The event marked a dramatic increase in the morale of our soldiers. I remember the many smiling faces on opening day. Three months later, I am happy to report that nothing has changed.

The next phase of development was focused on the improvement of the living quarters for our soldiers. The new tents are a welcome upgrade compared to the ones that we inherited upon our arrival. Our soldiers have become very innovative. They have modified some of the new tents to form eight cubicles that provide space for two soldiers and more privacy. Thus, their quarters now resemble a two person room.

Additionally, we have improved the force protection here at the FOB making it a safer place to reside. We now

have a concrete wall that encircles the Base camp which provides added protection for our soldiers. They can perform their daily duties without worrying about being engaged with direct gunfire from outside the FOB.

Our medics have turned our Battalion aid station into a first class facility. They have constructed a new treatment room; that provide privacy for our soldiers that are being treated by our medical staff. Additionally, they have constructed storage rooms and a new pharmacy. The facility is almost on par with that of Bennett Medical Treatment Facility back at Fort Hood.

We look forward to the future with great anticipation. There are plans in the works to bring containerized housing to the FOB. Additionally, Chaplin Otis and 1LT Vanzant are working to develop a MWR facility. The plan is to transform an old warehouse into a facility that will provide the Dealers with a place to relax when they return to the FOB after a demanding day outside of the wire.

Moreover, we have submitted plans for the construction of a gym that will be outfitted with weights and other physical training equipment. PT is absolutely a necessity with the addition of the new dining facility. We have to provide a facility to work off the many calories that are consumed in the new dining facility.

Our soldiers are performing their duties in a professional manner. Many have earned coveted awards such as: The Purple Heart, the

Combat Action Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Bronze Star. Some have been even been submitted for the Bronze star with “V” (Valor) device. Many more have been promoted because of the demonstrated ability and potential to perform at higher level of responsibility. Of note, the following individuals were selected for promotion to the rank of SFC: SSG Mariz, SSG Hatley, SSG Stanley, SSG Brown, SSG Williams, SSG Bowery, SSG Richardson, SSG Lancaster, SSG Gibson, SSG Fenter, and SSG Banks. I want to extend my congratulations to them and their families. I couldn’t be more proud of their accomplishments

Finally, I want to thank the Division Leadership: MG Thurman, BG Maffey, BG Halverson, and CSM Riling, and the Brigade Leadership: COL Tully, CSM King and LTC Elledge for their concern for the health, security, safety and welfare of the Dealers. The improvements mentioned above would not have been possible without their assistance. On behalf of all Dealers, we thank them dearly.

CSM Ernest Barnett
Dealer 7

HELLCAT NEWS

Hello from the banks of the lovely Euphrates! As the daytime temperatures creep into the low 90s, team Hellcat is at the forefront of our battalion’s efforts to make Iraq

a better place. Four months down, eight to go, and the Hellcats are still going strong.

Our junior leaders in the enlisted ranks have really stepped up their performance, and in recognition of this, the Hellcats are proud to send the following soldiers to the E-5 promotion board: Specialists Barnard, Daccueil, Destree, Braden, Brown, Damico, Koepke, Redus, Reif, and West. Additionally, we’ll be sending SGT Naylor to the E-6 promotion board. We know that they will be well prepared and will make us proud.

As some of you may already know, several Hellcats have already returned from their fifteen-day R&R leave. The following Hellcats have safely made the trip home and returned to us at FOB Iskandariyah: Naylor, Cruz, Normandin, Brazel, Ekstedt, Running, Moreno, Koepke, Ayala, Durgin, Castelli, Largent, Mendoza, Cutler, and Gray. They appear well rested, motivated, and ready to get back to work. The following soldiers will be “leaving on a jet plane” in April for R&R: Meyer, Diop, Nelson, Lazarus, Rodriguez, Velez, Lewis, Elrod, Azcueta, Farlow, Deason, Mahoney, Damico, Cambell, Fortune, Oneal, Williams, Santos, Reif, Nipper, Allbery, Daccueil, and Tarango. I’ve spoken with 1LT Mohr and he is particularly excited to fill in for CPT Nelson as executive officer in his absence. Though they will be missed, these soldiers have earned their leave and we wish them the best and hope they enjoy themselves.

The medics have seen a lot of action since our last update. There is a medic with every patrol outside the FOB, and they have distinguished themselves as confident, competent, and professional. Additionally, they were able to treat an Iraqi with a gunshot wound—he was stabilized and sent to an Iraqi hospital for further treatment. One of our best medics was injured this month in an IED blast, and our thoughts and prayers go out to SPC Kitner and his family while he recovers from his wounds at Walter Reed Army Hospital. One of our Hellcat attachments, SSG Schicker (a former Special Forces medic), was able to stabilize SPC Kitner on the scene before he was flown out for further care. It was a close call, but we were fortunate that our soldiers were able to maintain their composure and do their jobs in the face of adversity.

The scouts have put a lot of miles on their up-armored humvees this month. They are tasked with the important job of escorting LTC Donahoe on his jaunts throughout the Dealer area of operations, in addition to satisfying both company and battalion taskings. They are well known in the battalion for their expertise, tactical proficiency, and for driving too fast. Seriously though, our scouts are an invaluable resource and they have been doing great things for the battalion throughout our deployment. We also would like to welcome the new Scout Platoon Leader, 1LT Nick Del Toro, he has arrived with a tremendous reputation from

Alpha Company and has already made a huge impact.

Our mortar platoon has been dutifully patrolling AO Hellcat this month. They were able to distribute much-needed school supplies to the Iraqi children at our sponsored school, in addition to laying the groundwork for further school improvement projects. The Maddogs also managed to capture an artillery piece that was in our area—an important step in reducing the insurgent's ability to fight.

Though many of them are confined to the battalion TOC for twelve hours a day, the headquarters personnel continue to impress us with their positive attitude and work ethic. They work 24/7 to ensure that the battalion's maneuver units have the support they need. SGT Muething's Dealer hat was also recovered after a mysterious absence.

The mayor cell has been steadily working to improve the FOB and increase the Dealer standard of living. We managed to secure a large quantity of weights and other fitness equipment from our friends at the brigade FOB in Kalsu. The FOB has undergone a miraculous metamorphosis since we took it over from the Mississippi National Guard thanks many hard working soldiers from the company headquarters element.

At the time of this writing our Hellcats are "in the fight" all across our battalion's battle space. The warmer weather and the conclusion of the Muslim holidays of Ashura and Arbae'en mean that some of our toughest work lies

ahead. 1SG Hendricks and I need your support more than ever. As we bring this month's update to a close, our thoughts turn to our fallen comrades and their families—may we never forget their sacrifice. We pray for our safe return, our fellow deployed soldiers, and our families. Until the next update, we'll see you on the high ground....**HELLCAT!**

CPT Robert Perry
Hellcat 6



ARCHANGEL NEWS

The month of March was a very eventful one for Alpha Company, 1-67 AR BN. Along with the addition of several new soldiers to fill the ranks the company underwent reorganization so each platoon now has an equal number of soldiers. Now both tankers and infantrymen operate within the same platoon together. The company also received their newest lieutenant, 2LT Jeremy

Avant, who is now the platoon leader for Blitz platoon.

There has been a marked shift in the company's area of operations. The initial focus was on defeating IEDs and capturing the IED emplacements. While this is still an important part of the mission the focus has turned more to the improvement of the Iraqi way of life. This began by supplying store owners in the town of Jurf as Sakhr with paint to improve the look of their storefronts. The small businessmen of the town seemed very pleased to assist in the process of developing downtown Jurf as Sakhr. The farmers in area were also given seeds and hand tools so their crop yield would improve this year. The company has also begun to catalogue local leaders in the area so there is a better idea of where citizens get their influence from, but it also lets the Archangels know who to speak with if a problem arises.

To ensure the enemy stays out of the Jurf as Sakhr area and that progress continues to be made in the town, a patrol base was built in the middle of the town from which the Archangels can operate. The base was built by the 62nd Engineers and it is an enclosed compound with concrete barriers, guard towers, showers, a fuel point, and living quarters with air conditioning. The base took about 10 days to complete. The company rotates a platoon there every three days. The Archangels now have a presence in their area of operations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from which to

conduct combat patrols and humanitarian missions. The company will continue to operate from the patrol base until the end of the deployment. A new town police station will eventually be built right next to the patrol base with the hope that the Iraqi Police will be responsible for the town's law enforcement and protection. This coincides with the overall intent of Coalition Forces to have both the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army solely responsible for protecting their country.

The Archangels would also like to wish the following soldiers a Happy Birthday for the month of April: 1LT Antonio Cimino (2 April), PV2 Marcus Wells (2 April), SGT Brandon Fitzpatrick (12 April), SPC Rostan Frye (12 April), SPC John Vodenichar (16 April), SPC Andy Zepeda (20 April), SSG Kirk Amos (20 April), and PFC Nickolas Richmond (21 April).

Alpha Company continues to set a high standard for the rest of the Dealers in the 1st Battalion 67th Armor Regiment. Their high morale and excellent leadership is a credit to their families and friends who keep their spirits up and provide a source of constant encouragement. The Archangels look forward to returning home knowing that their mission was accomplished.

CPT Tony Kron
Archangel 6

BUSHMASTER NEWS

March is quickly passing and it seems like I just typed the last newsletter. As of yesterday we are 1/3 complete with our tour. This month has been a big transition month for the company. The new leadership has quickly transitioned into their positions and we look forward to turning over our area of operations to the Iraqi Army.

The area that B/1-67 has been operating in for the last 4 months will be transferred to Iraqi army units that operate in that area. Those units will be responsible for their own security and will work as an adjacent unit to ours. This is a huge move of course because it now puts the Iraqi security forces (ISF) in control of their own security situation. This is the goal we have all been striving for over these last few years.

With these changes, the company will transition areas and will shift operations closer to FOB Iskandariyah. Our mission will not change, but B Co will start operating in a new area of operation by next month. We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and look forward to working with the ISF in that area, so we can help develop them into an effective security force.

As everyone here in Dealer Land, we have been pretty busy over the past month. We started the month by participating in Operation Glory Days. This operation was in support of a Division mission to the north to remove insurgent activity to the north and east of the Euphrates.

Bushmaster Company moved from FOB Iskandariyah and established a Tactical Assembly Area (TAA) in the desert west of the main objective area. From that forward position, the company conducted numerous combat patrols and search operations in conjunction with army special operations forces to remove insurgents to the south west of the Division's objective area.

We did make contact with the enemy during our combat patrols and unfortunately sustained several casualties. One of our Bradley Fighting Vehicles and one of our recovery vehicles were hit by roadside bombs. Fortunately, the 3 crewmen of the Bradley were not hurt seriously and were later returned to duty. The mechanics in the recovery vehicle were uninjured as well. Unfortunately, SPC Kitner (one of our medics, who was riding in the back of the Bradley) sustained serious injuries and was medevaced. He is now recovering with his loved ones back at Walter Reed Hospital. We wish him a swift and speedy recovery and pass him our prayers through his recovery process.

Even with a bad there is always the good... It is amazing the level of dedication and spirit that your soldiers have in the face of adversity. The crew of the Bradley that was damaged did not hesitate when they knew that SPC Kitner had been injured. SSG Mericle, SPC Dunaway and PFC Murphy all responded without hesitation and evacuated SPC Kitner from the damaged vehicle. All of them

did this before seeking medical aid for their own injuries.

The Bradley fighting vehicle that was hit is a complete loss and will be retrograded to be overhauled. One of the first things SPC Dunaway asked me after the incident was "When can I get a new Bradley?" It's little things like that question that make me extremely proud to be a commander. Here is a soldier that was just involved in an attack and he is wondering when he can get another combat vehicle and go back out. Dunaway recently met with the Commanding General of the 4th ID (MG Thurman) and he asked him the same thing. He is not accepting no for an answer and he won't be happy unless he gets to serve as a Bradley gunner again.

The Glory Days operation started off slow but ended with a huge find for Bravo Company. SPC Chamber and SSG Reeves (2nd PLT) while patrolling to the north of our TAA observed a partially buried bag. They went to investigate and unearthed a cache of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) making material (These are the road size bombs that often are used against coalition forces). Upon further investigation, they uncovered 2 more bags in a separate area and found even more IED making material and documents that were linked to Al Qaeda. Our explosive, ordnance and disposal team (EOD- soldiers who disarm the roadside bombs) said it was the largest IED making cache they had ever seen and that by finding it, our unit had

prevented hundreds of IEDs from being made and used. It was a great find for the company and it was a huge validation for our part of the operation.

Upon our return from our TAA, we spent the next two weeks preparing for and participating in the security for the Arbae'en Celebration in Karbala. The Arbae'en is the completion of the mourning period that started during the Ashura celebration. It is a huge celebration that is attended every year by millions of Shia Muslims. This year was particularly large due to the bombing of the Shia mosque in Samarra. Thousands of Shias descended on Karbala in a show of solidarity and protest against the attack. 3rd PLT was the main effort for the company and spent over a week in Karbala manning and securing the Karbala Joint Coordination Center. They played a crucial role in the security for the Arbae'en and allowed it to be a safe and peaceful event. As a result, the platoon received laudatory praise from the Civil Affairs unit that works in Karbala and the chain of command.

Our last week has been mainly spent preparing for our future transition. We have had a chance to relax a little bit and work on improving our living conditions here on the FOB. 1SG Bandy has been working hard with all of the soldiers to replace ripped sand bags, paint offices, guard towers and other areas. The company area looks fantastic and it was all done by the hard work of Bravo Company soldiers.

Spring is already upon us and April is just around the corner. The company is assuming a new battle space and we are going to be busy getting to know the terrain, the people and the dynamics of our new area. We look forward to these challenges and we look forward to our reunion with you. Thank you as always for your continued support, love, and prayers. We all work very long, difficult hours without much rest and it means so much when we get the letter, package, or email from home. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers... We could never complete this mission without you. Thank you for your continued support to Bravo Company and our mission here in Iraq.

CPT Matthew Koehler
Bush 6

CARNIVORE NEWS

Greetings to the Families and Friends of the Carnivores:

Again I must preface this latest edition of the newsletter with a sincere "Thank You" to all of the families and spouses who continue in their unwavering support for their deployed Soldier. It was my distinct pleasure to be able to talk to some of the wives at the last FRG meeting and answer some of your questions. We will continue this in the future, so bring your questions with you so that I don't get over as easy next time. Although

participation is highly encouraged, if you cannot make it to the meeting and would like a question answered, please email it to my wife so that I can answer it for everyone. Additionally, I owe everyone an apology concerning the "Team Carnivore Story" video, as we experienced some technical difficulties with getting it reproduced and distributed. A fresh, non-scratched version is en route back to the home front that my wife will be able to copy and get in the mail. Due to the delay, we will also send out the February edition free of charge as well.

Operationally, we are beginning to see the dividends of our hard work in our area of responsibility. The Soldiers are constantly interacting with the local population and the trust and acceptance it is creating is apparent to anyone visiting our sector. Shops along the road are opening up again as the people grow more confident in the security situation. The people on the streets are eager to talk to Soldiers and smile and wave as we pass through. Additionally, the hesitation and fear that used to be common place when we approached houses in the rural areas is slowly melting away as the people realize that we are here to help them re-establish their lives, and we are not oppressive "occupiers" as the insurgents would like them to believe. It is the hard work of the Soldiers of Team Carnivore that has allowed this to happen through their professionalism, dignity, and respect for the locals and their customs. Their constant interaction with the population

utilizing a firm but fair and courteous approach is tipping the scales in our favor.

The evidence of our progress speaks for itself when you consider that when we took over our sector the previous unit had stopped patrolling the area due to the level of violence they encountered in it. In the month of January, we averaged an IED about every three days. Now, in our area of responsibility, we are averaging one IED per month. Slowly through our intensive efforts to gain the acceptance of the population the enemy will lose the ability to emplace IEDs completely. Our next hurdle is establishing the same level of trust and acceptance for the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units that operate in our sector, and this is an achievable goal that we are currently striving to attain.

Unfortunately for the immediate needs of those deployed forward, 1LT Schaeffer will not return from his convalescent leave in the States. He is slated to remain there to take over duties as the Rear Detachment Commander as CPT McGrath prepares to go to Special Forces Assessment and Selection. Although he will be sorely missed, he will be a tremendous asset for the Battalion and is the right person for the job. SGT Johnston and PFC Brown were both sent home early for R&R in order to allow them to heal in a better environment following their injuries from the same IED. As mentioned in the FRG meeting, the fact that everyone involved in the incident only sustained minor injuries is a testament to our

training, the courage of those involved, and the outstanding equipment we operate with.

Those soldiers deserving recognition for their actions during the month of March include the following: PFC Brown for evacuating the crew of his HMMWV after a catastrophic IED strike despite sustaining injuries to himself. PFC Ybarra for his exceptional leadership and performance in establishing a support by fire position during a platoon raid. SPC Mingone for his performance on a night dismounted ambush, once again crushing the myth that Tankers can't dismount. CPL Imhoff for his actions after contact with an IED and then two days later identifying another IED on the side of the road outside of our AO. SPC Evans for consistent performance with a positive attitude, especially in the execution of guard duty on the FOB. SGT Curry for consistent distinguished performance and readily assuming increased responsibility. PFC Braden for accepting the challenges as an interim tank gunner and performing very well. PFC Dunda for his excellent work ethic as demonstrated by working all night to get C22 up and running prior to 2nd Platoon moving out to the Island. CPL Devine for his performance as a designated marksman during the Arabian Holiday and as an acting Section Sergeant. SPC Drake for consistent excellent performance as the platoon armorer enabling weapons and optics to get fixed on a timely basis between two Companies. And finally, PFC Lauer for

being a team player in HQ section, working hard and performing above standard either as a HMMWV gunner, HMMWV driver, or radio operator in the Company Command Post.

Promotions for the 1st of March included the following: SPC Sidney, PFC Enos, SPC Groover, SPC Hoang, SPC Craycraft, and PFC Rosalez.

Those scheduled to take R&R leave in April are: CPL Imhoff, SPC Wallace, SPC Palmer, SPC McQuilkin, SPC Orozco, SPC Rodriguez, SGT Martinez, SGT Oakes, PFC Gilger, PFC Hagy, SSG Reynolds, 1LT Van Cleave, and SGT White.

New additions to Team Carnivore included four new 19K10s and seven new 11B's. PV2 Drumheller, PV2 Dibella, PFC Flornoy, and PV2 Ramos all moved into vacant loader positions on tanks. Our latest crop of Dismounted Infantry Warriors include PV2 Martin, PV2 Johnson, PFC Johnson, PV2 Bruce, PV2 Krejci, and PV2 Paul. Additionally, SSG Reeves joined the team from Bushmaster to assume duties as the 3rd Squad Leader.

Notes from the ISG: Greetings to all of the family members and friends of the Soldiers of Carnivore Company. It is truly my pleasure to say that I am proud to be the First Sergeant of such hard working warriors. Many thanks to you for supporting your loved ones during the train-up for such a challenging year. Their hard work and dedication has allowed them to be very successful in every mission they have been given.

The transition from Kuwait to Iraq was a smooth and safe one. In light of a very demanding work schedule the company has adapted to many changes at FOB Iskandariyah. The Battalion has been working diligently to improve the quality of life as we continue to move on with our daily military operations.

As of today every Soldier in Carnivore knows when he will return home for mid tour leave. Being the First Sergeant I have the luxury of working with such brave young men. I know that you will embrace them at the first opportunity and that you are very proud of their service.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are steadfast, loyal, and making a positive difference in Iraq.

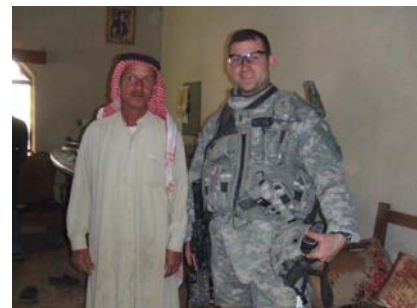
CPT Stefan McFarland
Carnivore 6



Bruised but not beaten, SGT Record smiles big for the camera just minutes after his vehicle was destroyed by an IED.



Dumping another load of gravel to improve the road to "Carnivore Island"



1LT Van Cleave meeting with a local mayor

DOG NEWS

Salaam! I hope the arrival of spring is as welcome there as it is here; it means we're one season closer to coming home! This has been a hectic month for the guys in Team DOG. There was a major holiday, Arbae'en, that the company played a key part in. There were no reports of violence, so that's a successful operation in this fight. We've been building our relationships with the Iraqi Police we work with everyday and the fruits of our efforts are paying off. I'd imagine you've heard your loved one speak a little Arabic in his calls home. Chances are he learned it from one of the Iraqi police in the area. The

soldiers are doing well in the endeavor to win the trust and confidence of the Iraqi citizens in our area – the Musayyibawis. The people here have a generally favorable view of your soldiers and that's because they've all taken the mission to heart and get the job done. Every part of the company is doing great things and keeping us in the fight. All three platoons have been taking the fight to the enemy at every opportunity and they've kept their heads up when they're out of the spotlight. The mechanics have done a phenomenal job of maintaining our combat power. We're always rolling because of their efforts. They truly set the standard. 3rd Platoon over with A CO is doing some great work on our flank and they've been a great addition to our sister infantry company. I'd like to welcome the newest DOGS to the fight – 2LT Kelley, PFC Adams, PVT Perri, and PVT Shaman. These soldiers have come in and gotten down to business. We're glad to have them on the team. Thank you for all of the care packages, especially the ones the FRG sent to the single soldiers. The M&M cookies were a big hit. For all of the ladies supporting the FRG, you have my gratitude. To echo the 1SG, I urge you to continue to support the FRG. I still have soldiers tell me how it is still working. However, it can't continue to work without your help. For all of you "over there," thank you for everything you do everyday.

CPT Irvin Oliver
Dog 6



SGT Irby and SGT Immel
build combat power



SPC Kirkland, SGT Steffani,
SPC Hauschild



SPC Guariglia

ELIMINATOR NEWS

As March comes to a close many changes are approaching, but 1st platoon is still going strong. SSG Bolden, SSG Banks, SGT Webster, SGT Nitta, and SGT Salceda have led crews to keep our area safe of IEDs from their observation posts. The whole

platoon has also done a great job covering down on their days off to go on patrols with SFC Collins, SPC Polk, and PV2 Williams. SFC Collins is back out of the OPs room and back into the action. Luckily there hasn't been any action on the patrols, and the Eliminators are focusing on making the area around them a better place. Missions have gone from raids to visiting schools and mosques and figuring out ways to improve them. We have also spent a lot of time visiting local businesses in order to keep the community's economy running smooth. SGT Cobb has been tasked to lead several members of 1st platoon in guarding the gates of FOB Iskan. Although somewhat of a monotonous job, his crew has done an outstanding job staying alert and motivated enough to keep us all safe while we're inside the wire. We don't take their efforts for granted. Over the next month 1st Platoon will be more consolidated as observation posts and gate guard duties disappear. They have been assigned a new platoon leader, 2LT Germann, who arrived late February. The Eliminators are keeping morale high and are truly making a difference around FOB Iskan, inside and out.

This past month, the platoon has continued to get "hot" on the insurgents trail. Though some of the platoon's key personnel have taken a well-deserved rest and relaxation leave, the platoon has persevered and has hoped to make our comrades on leave proud. Changes are inevitable and avoidable here on Forward Operating Base (FOB)

Iskandariyah. The platoon has prided itself on staying flexible and keeping morale high. Some individuals have proven their competence throughout operations, SSG Watson, SPC Stabile, SPC Rosas have been “the eyes” of the Eliminator battlefield. They are a key component to keeping the major route through the Eliminator Area of Operations safe. SGT Morris, SGT Richard, and PFC Christopherson have also immensely contributed to the safety of the area by conducting observations posts and patrols. SSG Jones keeps the entire platoon headed in the right direction. “The Daddy” has been working hard to keep all the men safe and morale as high as possible. His work on the river patrols has been outstanding, and he has been a tireless leader at making our river work so successful. SGT Pitta and SGT Casey have ensuring the perimeter security of the FOB is consistent and alert. All of the members of the platoon have proven everyday that no task is too difficult and will complete it even without a smile. Lately, the platoon has also engaged the local populace; all the men have drastically changed the Iraqis’ perceptions of Americans. We work daily with the Iraqi Army, and the civilian population has noticed, and understands the joint contribution to success and safety in AO Eliminator.

Down at the motor pool the “Pit Crew” has been hard at work. Services and day to day maintenance on vehicles keeps most of the men busy. But the Pit crew has also completed

several projects to help the company and the battalion. This includes a HMMWV ramp for maintenance and working on the new basketball court. Somehow they find a little time each day to unwind in the motor pool playing catch, or in their personal area.

SFC Thomas and his crew continue to be the support for the company by preparing the soldiers for leave, and procuring the supplies needed by the soldiers to prepare for new tents. SGT Gay and SGT Smith continue to operate at a high level while running the command post, and allow the soldiers the time to do missions each day. Our A&O folks have been very hard at work supporting the FOB and the Battalion with our engineer equipment. Special thanks goes out to SPC Vang, (Just Promoted) to his hard work with the Bulldozer building fortifications for our sister companies for their field positions. SPC Vang created berms and increased force protection for Carnivore and Bushmaster at their respective operating locations outside the FOB.

I would just like to say how hard everybody has worked this month on missions and on their living conditions. 1-67 AR BN provided new tents for the soldiers, and our NCOs responded by constructing new walls for them inside these tents. 1SG Wesley set the standard for the battalion with the help of Wrench by creating 10 2 man rooms per tent for the soldiers. 1st and 2nd Platoon continue to work tirelessly on performing 24 hours a day in AO

Eliminator. Overall, the line platoons are doing a great job. Sometimes in letters like this it is overstated, but they are making a huge difference and to commend them is only speaking the truth. They have focused on developing the infrastructure and restoring safety to the villages by learning which business operate in the AO, and creating projects to support continued economic development in the AO. SFC Collins and 2LT German continue to develop into a great team that executes its missions in a calm professional manner. Again, your men have performed to the highest ability, and I can’t thank them enough.

CPT James Sturm
Eliminator 6

FURY NEWS

Another month has come and gone in Fury’s deployment to Iraq with 1-67 Armor. March was a good month for the company, and Fury continues to distinguish itself as the best Forward Support Company in the 4th Infantry Division. Credit for this, of course, can only be given to the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers and NCOs of the company. Fury completed over 100 combat logistical patrols all over the country during the month of March. Distro and Headquarters continue to supply the battalion with all the support they need outside the wire, and this is only possible with the round-the-clock work

of Maintenance keeping our equipment and the maneuver companies' equipment fully mission capable every day. The Recovery section also continues to show why it is the best in the Division by completing tasks even beyond the capabilities of its equipment. Fury was honored to help in two major missions during the month with units from around the Army. The 101st Airborne Division and the 75th Ranger Regiment both saw firsthand that there are no missions too tough for Fury to impact positively. From north to south, east to west, there is virtually no area in Iraq that Fury has not been to support 1-67's missions in Iraq. Special thanks go out to the NCOs and Soldiers for their unbelievable hard work and willingness to accomplish any and all missions. Beyond the non-stop work to support the maneuver companies in the battalion, Fury also showed again that it is more than just an every day support company. The company never shies away from its missions, even in the face of the enemy.

On the FOB, improvements continue to be made to the living conditions and force protection of the camp. A new weight and fitness room is being built, thanks to Fury's missions to procure the equipment. For a good portion of the month, Fury not only completed all of its missions, but we also covered down on some of the guard towers on the perimeter while continuing to secure the front gate of the FOB. Close to the end of March, Fury was rewarded for its hard work by

another company taking over for the security of the front gate. Thank you to all the Soldiers who spent countless hours on the gate or in the guard tower, only to come down and go back to their regular jobs without complaint.

Fury continues to lead the battalion in Soldier retention and re-enlistment. This is a tribute to the outstanding care and leadership shown every day by the company leaders and Non-Commissioned Officers. Over 30 Soldiers and NCOs in the company have re-enlisted during our tour in Iraq, taking advantage of the huge re-enlistment bonuses in the tax-free combat zone. Thank you to these Soldiers for their commitment to continue their service to the company and to the U.S. Army. Also during the month, Soldiers were afforded the opportunity to voice their desires for duty location upon redeployment back to the United States. We know this was a difficult decision for many, and we thank the families and friends back home for their love and support of their Soldiers during these career-shaping decisions. We look forward to continuing to provide the best combat support in the Army in the months to come, and this is only possible with the outstanding support we receive in turn from those holding vigil for us at home.

Finally, congratulations are in order for SFC Lancaster, SFC Fenter, SFC Evans, SFC Gibson, SGT Hawkins, SGT Lamotte, SGT Assem, SGT Fornella, SGT Sparks, SPC

Stoykovich, SPC McCloud, SPC Rossi, SPC Atkinson, SPC Hutchinson, SPC Tijero, and SPC Casey on their well-deserved promotions.

Nothing Moves Without Fury!

CPT Bradley A. Heath
Fury 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Seizing the moment

Well, here we are, edging closer to half way in the deployment. I'm edging closer to R&R and that's always a good thing. I greatly look forward to the day when I get to see my wife and kids again. My youngest daughter (5 years old) already has my R&R planned out for me; first to Texas Roadhouse for dinner, then to ice-skating in Austin and then she and I will be spending time together playing with play dough. Now my wife tells my daughter that it isn't her decision what we do on my R&R, but my daughter doesn't focus on such trivialities. She knows what's going to happen and mom just needs to fall in line.

As I think about R&R, I know that I can't fill a year in two weeks, but I won't fill the time sitting on the couch either. Erma Bombeck once said, "Seize the moment. Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart."

Seizing the moment takes good planning. So I plan to have some type of agenda that incorporates my wife and

daughters in fun and family time, but allows me some down time too. One of my friends asked me if I had any ideas for things to do when taking leave. I told him, whatever you do, take the first day or two and decompress. I said, 'Go to a hotel and sit by the pool, jump in the whirlpool, be a vegetable for a day. That way you can somewhat clear your head from the deployment and then enjoy your R&R.'

May your time with your loved one be a blessing and truly a time of R&R.

Yours truly,

CPT (CH) Carl Otis